Claims

1. The use of a compound of formula (I)

R-CO-X (I)

(wherein R is a C_{16-24} unsaturated hydrocarbon group optionally interrupted α, β, γ, or δ to the carbonyl group by a heteroatom or group of heteroatoms selected from S, O, N, SO, SO_2 said hydrocarbon group comprising at least 5 non-conjugated double bonds; and

X is an electron withdrawing group)

in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of psoriasis.

2. Use as claimed in claim 1 wherein said hydrocarbon group has 5 to 7 double bonds.

3. Use as claimed in claim 2 wherein said hydrocarbon group comprises 5 double bonds.

4. Use as claimed in claims 1 to 3 wherein no double bond is conjugated with the carbonyl group.

5. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein all double bonds are in the cis configuration.

6. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein all double bonds are in the cis configuration except the double bond nearest the carbonyl.

7. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the R group comprises 19 to 21 carbon atoms.

8. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the R group comprises a heteroatom or group of heteroatoms β or γ to the carbonyl.

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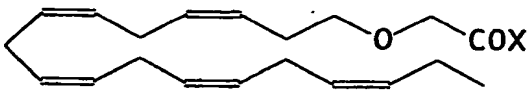
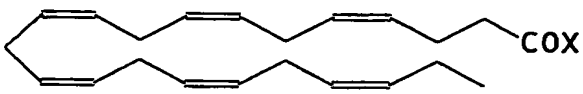
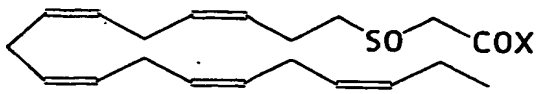
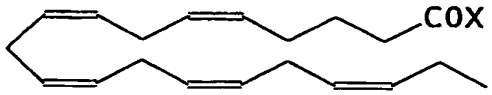
9. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein said heteroatom or group of heteroatoms is O, S or SO.

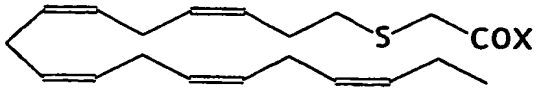
10. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein the RCOX group is:

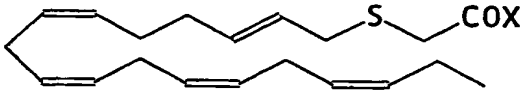








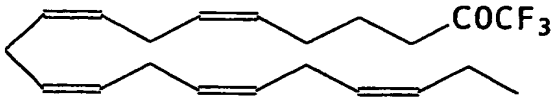


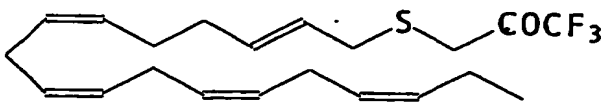


11. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein X is a O-C_{1-6} alkyl, CN, CO_2-C_{1-6} alkyl, phenyl, $CHal_3$, $CHal_2H$, $CHalH_2$ wherein Hal represents a halogen.

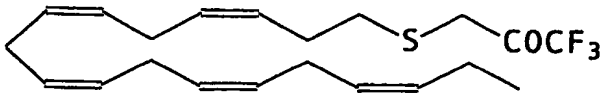
12. Use as claimed in claim 11 wherein X is $CHal_3$.

13. Use as claimed in claim 1 wherein RCOX is





or



14. A method of treating psoriasis comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of a compound of formula (I)

R-CO-X (I)

(wherein R is a C_{16-24} unsaturated hydrocarbon group optionally interrupted α, β, γ, or δ to the carbonyl group by a heteroatom or group of heteroatoms selected from S, O, N, SO, SO_2 said hydrocarbon group comprising at least 5 non-conjugated double bonds; and

X is an electron withdrawing group).

15. Use of a compound of formula (I)

R-CO-X (I)

(wherein R is a C_{16-24} unsaturated hydrocarbon group optionally interrupted α, β, γ, or δ to the carbonyl group by a heteroatom or group of heteroatoms selected from S, O, N, SO, SO_2 said hydrocarbon group comprising at least 5 non-conjugated double bonds; and

X is an electron withdrawing group) for use in the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting the enzyme IVa PLA_2.

16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I)

R-CO-X (I)

(wherein R is a C_{16-24} unsaturated hydrocarbon group optionally interrupted α, β, γ, or δ to the carbonyl group by a heteroatom or group of heteroatoms selected from S, O, N, SO, SO_2 said hydrocarbon group comprising at least 5 non-conjugated double bonds; and

X is an electron withdrawing group) and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.